

Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An elastomer material having an absorption coefficient for laser light of $0.5 - 2.5 \text{ mm}^{-1}$.
2. (Original) An elastomer material according to claim 1 comprising a base thermoplastic elastomer compounded with a colourant to have the absorption coefficient for laser light of $0.5 - 2.5 \text{ mm}^{-1}$.
3. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to ~~claim 1 or~~ claim 2 wherein the base thermoplastic elastomer has a melting point of 200°C or less.
4. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~ wherein the base thermoplastic elastomer is a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, or a styrene/butadiene/styrene tri-block copolymer or styrene-(butadiene/butylene)-styrene tri-block copolymer.
5. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 2, ~~3 or 4~~ wherein the base thermoplastic elastomer is selected from the materials Evoprene™, Cawiton™, and C-Flex.
6. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to ~~any one of claims 2 to 5~~ claim 2 wherein the colourant comprises a pigment or mixture of pigments mixed with a carrier material.
7. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 6 wherein the pigment or mixture thereof has the colour Pantone 5497C, 556C, 5565C, 563C, 570C, 5555C or a similar grey or grey-green colour.

8. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to ~~6 or~~ claim 7 wherein the colourant comprises a mixture of the pigments (:) white 6, black 7, green 7 and blue 29.

9. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 6, ~~7 or 8~~ wherein the carrier material comprises ethylene vinyl acetate, low density polyethylene or polypropylene

10. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to ~~any of the claims 7 to 10~~ to claim 6 wherein the colourant comprises 10 – 50 wt.% pigment, the balance up to 100% comprising the carrier material.

11. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to ~~any of the claims 7 to 11~~ to claim 6 comprising 1 – 15wt.% of colourant the balance up to 100% comprising the base thermoplastic elastomer.

12. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 1 which comprises Evoprene™ Super G, compounded with 1 – 5 wt% of a colourant masterbatch comprising an ethylene vinyl acetate carrier with 35 - 45wt% of pigment of a colour Pantone 5497C, 556C, 5565C, 563C, 570C, 5555C or a similar grey or grey-green colour.

13. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 1 which comprises Evoprene™ TS2525, compounded with 1 – 5 wt% of a colourant master batch comprising an ethylene vinyl acetate carrier with 35 - 45wt% of pigment of a colour colour Pantone 5497C, 556C, 5565C, 563C, 570C, 5555C or a similar grey or grey-green colour.

14. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 1 which comprises Cawiton™ PR5947, compounded with 3 - 15 wt% of a colourant master batch comprising an LDPE carrier with 15 – 20 wt% of pigment of a colour Pantone 5497C, 556C, 5565C, 563C, 570C, 5555C or a similar grey or grey-green colour.

15. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 which in a thickness ca 2mm allows less than 6% of laser power up to 8W incident power to pass through.

16. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 having an absorption coefficient ~~in the range of~~ 1.0 – 2.5 mm⁻¹.

17. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 16 having an absorption coefficient of 1.5 – 2.2 mm⁻¹.

18. (Currently Amended) An elastomer material according to claim 18 having an absorption coefficient of 1.4 – 1.6 mm⁻¹.

19. (Currently Amended) A closure for a pharmaceutical vial made wholly or partly of an elastomer material as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in claim 1.

20. (Original) A closure for a pharmaceutical vial having a closure wall comprised of an elastomer material such that when laser light is directed on the outer surface of the closure wall 99% of the laser power is absorbed within 0.5 – 2.5 mm depth from the outer surface with the effect of melting the material.

21. (Currently Amended) A closure for a pharmaceutical vial, made wholly or partly of a thermoplastic elastomer compounded with a colourant to the extent that less than 6% of laser light of wavelength 980nm at an incident laser power up to 8W penetrates through the closure to reach the interior of the vial ~~or syringe~~.

23. (Currently Amended) A process for introducing a substance into a vial comprising: providing a vial having a mouth opening closed by a closure as claimed in ~~any one of claims 19 to 21~~ claim 19, passing a hollow needle through the closure, introducing a ~~the~~ substance into the vial via the needle, withdrawing the needle from

the vial and closure, and sealing the residual puncture hole in the closure by heat sealing.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 23 wherein the ~~heating~~ heat sealing of the elastomer material of the closure adjacent the puncture site so that the material fuses is done by directing laser light onto the elastomer material adjacent the puncture site.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 24 wherein the laser light has a power less than 20W.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to claim 25 wherein the laser light has a power 4 – 10W.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 26~~ claim 24 wherein the laser ~~beam~~ light has a wavelength in the range of 960-1000nm.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The process according to ~~any one of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24 wherein the laser light is directed at the elastomer material adjacent to the puncture site for a period of 0.5 – 2 seconds. .